

Creating a Safer Santa Clara County

We should all follow the guidelines found in this brochure. These guidelines are part of the Uniform Fire Code, Public Resource Code and/or local fire ordinances. These codes are Law! They are intended to help prevent brush fires and to protect your home in the event of a brush fire. By following these codes and preparing now, you can greatly increase the chance of your property surviving a major wildland fire.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE AGENCY FOR MORE INFORMATION

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRESAFE COUNCIL MEMBERS

CDF
(408) 779-2121

Mid-Peninsula
Open Space District
(650) 691-2165

PG&E
Vegetation Mgt.
(408) 725-3380

Casa Loma Volunteer
Fire Department
(408) 997-3113

Palo Alto Fire Dept.
(650) 329-2649

Fireman's Fund
Insurance Company
(408) 436-3395

Santa Clara County
Fire Department
(408) 378-4010

San Jose
Fire Department
(408) 277-4444

Los Altos Hills
County Fire District
(650) 948-2165

San Jose
Real Estate Board
(408) 445-4800

Los Altos Hills
Neighborhood
Coordinators
(650) 941-5002

Saratoga
Fire Department
(408) 867-9001

FireSafe Advisory



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

*We're here
to help*

Please contact us!

What is the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council program?

In 1997, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection established a program of FireSafe Councils at the State, County, and local levels to address the potential for serious loss of life and property due to fires in the Wildland / Urban Interface areas. The program is designed to actively involve stakeholders such as citizens, elected officials, environmental groups, business leaders, air and water quality agencies, Fire Protection and Law Enforcement along with other responsible groups and individuals in the process of preparing to survive a large damaging wildfire.

The Mission of the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

"To improve the quality of life in the Wildland / Urban Interface areas of Santa Clara County through the use of modern fire prevention and education methods and plans."

The components include:

- * Reduction of hazardous vegetation
- * Creation of defensible space
- * Education of fire hazards

Can a Firestorm happen here?

Lexington, Marin, Oakland/Berkeley Hills, Pebble Beach, Malibu, Laguna Beach...
Firestorms can and do happen in Wildland/Urban Interface areas that don't take the proper steps to prepare. ***You Can Make A Difference!***

Roofs

Problem: Untreated wood shakes

The number one cause of home losses in wildland areas is due to wood shake roofs, as they can ignite from windblown sparks

Solution: Install a fire resistant roof when re-roofing.

Request a class B (or better) roof assembly. Insist on a building permit to ensure the roof is installed correctly

Problem: Debris

Tinder dry needles and leaves on your roof and in your rain gutters can easily catch fire and endanger your home. Also, dead limbs overhanging your home may ignite and spread a fire.

Solution: Sweep gutter and roof

Clean gutters and roof on a regular basis, especially during the hot dry weather of fire season, and remove all dead limbs from the roof.

Vents

Problem: No Protection

Sparks and burning embers from approaching wildland fires can enter through unprotected vents and ignite your home.

Solution: Protect your vents

Cover your attic and foundation vents with mesh no larger than 1/4 inch.

Chimneys

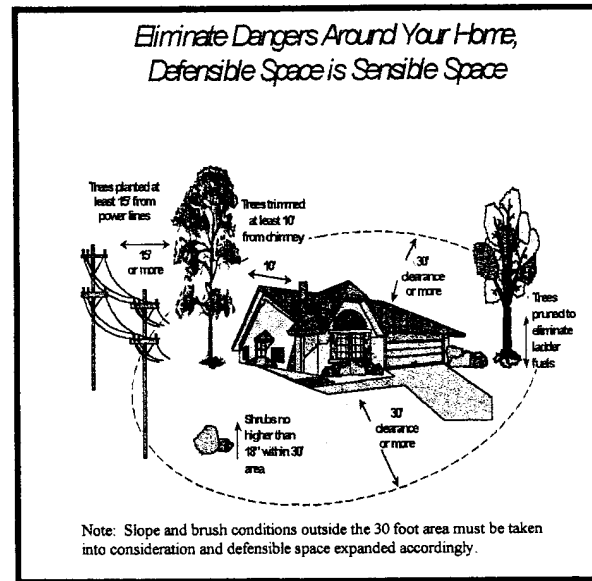
Problem: Tree limb proximity

Tree limbs too close to your chimney can easily ignite.

Solution: Trim trees

Trim back limbs to at least 10 feet away from your chimney

Eliminating Dangers Around Your Home



As the fire approaches!

If time allows:

- *Place ladders against the front of the house
- *Connect garden hoses with shut-off nozzles and turn on water. Make sure that the nozzle is closed.
- *Park cars facing out
- *Remove lightweight curtains from inside windows. Close heavy drapes.
- *Shut-off gas at the meter or propane tanks (in rural areas)
- *Turn on all lights to increase visibility of your home in heavy smoke.
- *Evacuate family and pets to a safe location

Combustible Materials

Problem: Storage

Firewood or other combustible materials stored too close to your home can ignite from radiant heat, as well as flame contact, and spread to your home.

Solution: Store all combustible materials away from your home and keep lids on your garbage cans. Build an enclosure for your firewood. Keep a hose or fire extinguisher readily available.

Premises Identification

Problem: No signage

Where are you when you need help? No visible address number will cause a delay in any emergency response. Emergency responders must find you in order to help.

Solution: Make sure your home is quickly and easily identifiable by ensuring that it's address is clearly marked and visible. Use large numbers that contrast with a contrasting background.

Landscape

Problem: Overgrown / dead vegetation

Overgrown, dead, or dying landscape can ignite and endanger your home.

Solution: Maintain your landscape by trimming and removing any dead / dying vegetation as well as dead / dying or low hanging tree limbs to prevent the laddering of fuels effect. *When re-landscaping choose fire-resistive plants
*(contact your local nursery)

Defensible Space

Problem: Dense, flammable vegetation

Flammable wildland vegetation too close to your home will make it impossible for firefighters to save your home in the event of a brush fire.

Solution: Provide a safety zone clearance of 30 feet minimum and up to 100 feet, or more, depending on the slope of your parcel. Check with your local fire authority on specific clearances from your home.

NEVER TRESPASS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY